

REMARKS

The non-final Office Action of February 21, 2003, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claim 46 has been amended. Claims 28, 43, and 47 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 48-50 have been added. Claims 1-27, 29-42, 44-46, and 48-50 remain pending.

In the specification, and the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 29, has been amended to remove the embedded hyperlinks from the original specification.

Applicant wishes to note that the PTO-1449 form submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 14, 2003 by the Applicant has not been returned to the Applicant as initialed copies entered by the Examiner. Applicant hereby requests that the Examiner formally initial the listed references and return a copy of the initialed PTO-1449 form. In the event the Examiner needs a copy of the PTO-1449 form, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number identified below.

Claims 28, 43, and 47 have been cancelled. Independent claims 48, 49, and 50 have been added. Independent claims 48, 49, and 50 incorporate all of the features of claims 28, 43, and 47, including the base claim. Claim 46 has been amended to overcome the objection. Claim 46 is now dependent on claim 30.

Claims 1-27, 29-42, and 44-46 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-58 of copending U.S. Application No. 10/042,245.

Concurrently herewith a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) is filed to overcome the provisional rejection based on a non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting ground. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same. Should the Examiner believe that an interview will in any way expedite prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned. Applicants look forward to passage to issue of the present application at the earliest convenience of the Office.

Appl. No. 09/610,005
Amdt. dated April 2, 2003
Reply to Office Action of February 21, 2003

Should the Examiner disagree with the amendment or wish to discuss other clarifying amendments prior to issue of the application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The fees for submittal of the terminal disclaimer and additional independent claims are filed concurrently herewith, however, if any further fees are required for consideration of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: April 2, 2003

By: 

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